

**To:** Dhieux, Joyel[Dhieux.Joyel@epa.gov]; Cristiano, Gina[Cristiano.Gina@epa.gov]; Peterson, Cynthia[Peterson.Cynthia@epa.gov]; Way, Steven[way.steven@epa.gov]  
**From:** Schmittdiel, Paula  
**Sent:** Tue 8/11/2015 4:05:57 PM  
**Subject:** FW: Animas Data Follow-Up

Not sure if you need more advisors on the Gold King release but I thought that this might be helpful. Steve may already know about him – Cap Allen. See the email chain.

Paula Schmittdiel

Remedial Project Manager

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

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**From:** Coursen, Robin  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 11, 2015 10:00 AM  
**To:** Schmittdiel, Paula  
**Subject:** FW: Animas Data Follow-Up

Paula, this is someone I know from Evergreen. Perhaps Cap Allen is someone we need to talk to.

**From:** John Beldock [<mailto:jbeldock@ecobroker.com>]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 11, 2015 8:10 AM  
**To:** Coursen, Robin  
**Cc:** Cap Allen  
**Subject:** Fwd: Animas Data Follow-Up

Robin,

It was a pleasure to see you last night, and I would be very honored to be of any service to you with the Animas River watershed, and/or any other areas where your noble challenges continue.

This communication, and the one below to Bruce Finley (Denver Post), introduce Cap Allen (copied). Other than those professionals already officially on the case, there is no civil engineer who better understands what happened across the valley from Gold King in the late seventies, what happen last week, and what can be done next. Cap is seasoned at dealing with all the stakeholders involved in water challenges of this nature, and may be one of the best professionals EPA can bring in immediately to identify, discuss, and affect any and all available mitigation and remediation measures.

If you and/or Cap need someone to carry Cap's bag, take notes, and support your next steps, I too am at your service. In this instance in particular, that specific watershed has been an integral part of Cap's life (and mine) for over 40 years, so we're definitively well positioned to help all the stakeholders find ways through the currently very challenging circumstances.

All the best,

John Beldock, Ph.D.

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Begin forwarded message:

**From:** John Beldock <[jbeldock@ecobroker.com](mailto:jbeldock@ecobroker.com)>

**Subject:** Animas Data Follow-Up

**Date:** August 10, 2015 at 11:20:10 AM MDT

**Cc:** Cap Allen <[capallen@frontier.net](mailto:capallen@frontier.net)>

**To:** [bfinley@denverpost.com](mailto:bfinley@denverpost.com)

Bruce,

Ironically, the civil engineering / wastewater treatment authority in the Southwest lives and works within 50 miles of the Animas River, and nobody has as yet connected the dots. Cap Allen (Cap Allen Engineering, 970-799-0623, [capallen@frontier.net](mailto:capallen@frontier.net)) has been serving those communities and countless others for 40-plus years. From Cornell Engineering originally, Cap Allen was my high school teacher in Durango in the mid-70s. Cap and I actually witnessed the last time (at least that I can recall) the Animas River was discolored by a mine tailings pond in approximately 1978. I remember standing by the River then, with all the yellow and orange, and the colors on the rocks for literally months (if not years thereafter).

Cap used it as a teaching opportunity back then, explaining to us how the mining accidents happen, what the ponds are designed to do, the extensive range of heavy metals in those waters, the engineering challenges associated with RO and other treatment techniques for heavy metals, the distance of public drinking wells in Durango and its aquifers from contaminated river flows of this nature, the minerals the mines are mining in the first place and their use in mobile devices and other electronics, and all the other connected issues that go into thinking about, reporting on, and creating solutions for environmental catastrophes of this nature.

As you can imagine, all of what Cap started teaching us in the 70s was long before Al Gore invented the Internet. So very few people even heard of the last time the Animas was hit like this from one of the Silverton mines (actually one just across the valley from the Gold King).

In the 40-plus years since, Cap has helped Durango and the surrounding communities engineer drinking water and wastewater solutions. From what I've seen (and I've worked with and observed a great number of them), Cap is the most experienced and knowledgeable water engineer in the Southwest. He would be an interesting reality check for you on anything on which you elect to further report on the Gold King mine accident, the effects on Durango and the other communities down-river, and potential mitigation measures and solutions.

Bruce, these are complex issues, exemplified no more convincingly than by the comparative pH table you published in your August 8th, 2015 article, *Animas River: Tests show water acidic as coffee*. Your fine reporting gets the ball started, and the question is where it will roll (up, down, or sideways from here). Cap may be helpful to you. He's certainly been helpful to me. He certainly trained us to respect the acidity of 3.74 and the power of heavy metals.

All the best,

John Beldock, Ph.D.

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